



# News Release

Defense Logistics Agency  
Defense Distribution Center  
Command Affairs Office  
2001 Mission Drive  
New Cumberland, PA 17070-5000  
(717) 770-6223  
[www.ddc.dla.mil](http://www.ddc.dla.mil)

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**Media Contact:**  
**Stacy Umstead**  
**(717) 770-6223**  
**[stacy.umstead@dla.mil](mailto:stacy.umstead@dla.mil)**

### **Augmentation of passive RFID infrastructure at DOD distribution centers begins**

**NEW CUMBERLAND, PA** — New portals, augmenting current technology at the Defense Distribution Center's largest site are getting the green light this week.

More than 300 passive radio frequency identification portals will be installed across DDC's global logistics network in the next few months. The first of those portals were installed last week at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., or DDSP.

According to DDC Information Operations Wireless Team Leader Larry Loiacono, representatives from ODIN Technologies, the company awarded the contract to complete the passive RFID equipment installation, are passing a test pallet by each of the newly installed portals to validate equipment readiness, antennae placement and network connectivity this week.

"This simulates the receipt of a shipment from a supplier that uses passive RFID technology – either voluntarily or in compliance with DOD contract clauses. Typically, those pallets will contain passive RFID tags on each case of materiel as well as one tag that covers the entire pallet," explained Loiacono.

The test pallet is passed through the portal ten times while a technician nearby monitors a laptop computer that indicates which tags are being read. Each of the 20 tags on the test pallet must be read successfully every time before the portal is accepted.

Both Gen 1 and Gen 2 tags are being used on the test pallet. According to Loiacono, both tag types have been read successfully.

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Under the conditions of the current project, DDSP has been outfitted with 55 additional portals – 32 at DDSP's main site in New Cumberland, Pa., and 23 at a detachment facility in Mechanicsburg, Pa.

DDSP has had four passive RFID portals operating since December 2004, and has been successfully reading tags and providing electronic acceptance to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service system.

Located in New Cumberland, Pa., DDSP is the largest distribution operation in the Department of Defense. DDSP receives about 40,000 new procurement shipments each month.

The current initiative to enhance DDC's existing passive RFID infrastructure will bring DDC into compliance with the DOD policy to make DOD distribution centers capable of receiving passive RFID tags as suppliers begin tagging their products in accordance with acquisition regulations.

"As a pioneer in the use of passive RFID technology, the current initiative to augment our existing passive RFID infrastructure demonstrates DDC's commitment to enabling each of our 26 distribution centers around the world to receive shipments tagged with passive RFID," said Janet Cravener, Chief of DDC's Logistics Policy Division.

Across the organization, less than 7 percent of the materiel entering DDC distribution centers is tagged with passive RFID, but according to Loiacono that number is expected to increase substantially as more suppliers begin tagging shipments in compliance with new DOD acquisition regulations.

ODIN Technologies representatives will add 49 portals to the existing passive RFID infrastructure at DDC's second largest site, Defense Distribution Depot San Joaquin, Calif., in Tracy, Calif., next week.

All 19 of DDC's distribution centers in the continental United States will be equipped with RFID portals by September of this year. Portal installation at DDC's seven overseas sites will be complete in 2007.

The contract to install the portals was awarded to ODIN Technologies in May. Psion Teklogix was awarded the contract in June to install the associated software.

## **CUT LINES:**

### **DDC RFID portal - test pallet.jpg**

An ODIN Technologies representative passes a test pallet by a newly installed passive RFID portal at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., the largest distribution operation in the Department of Defense.

### **DDC RFID portal - placing cover.jpg**

Personnel from ODIN Technologies installed 55 additional portals at Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, Pa., last week. The red, yellow and green light indicating network status is visible on the front of the portal.